

## / BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

### ROBERT JR. AND EMMA JOHNSON McKNIGHT

Robert McKnight Jr., a son of Robert and Katherine Shields Murray McKnight, was born in Keysport, Pennsylvania. He was a baby of less than one year when his father and mother crossed the plains in a handcart company.

Robert lived his boyhood and adult life in Heber Valley. He was a mason and plasterer by trade, and worked in the lumber and saw mills, however, as a young man, until some time after his marriage. He was a musician, learning to play the cornet first. He was a member of the first band in Heber, which was under the directorship of Berlin Whitaker Sr. Later he learned to play the violin and played at dances his entire life. He was always accompanied by his life-long friend, Dick Duke, at the organ or piano. Edward Murdock also accompanied with his guitar and later his son, Lynn McKnight, played the banjo. "Uncle Bob," as he was known, was also noted for his contributions on all Church and civic buildings. His sons and daughters were: Lillie, Rudolph, Emma, Ina, Clarence, Nellie, Almeda, Luella, Bert, Lynn and Paul. This made a total of 11 children. Nellie and Clarence both died in infancy.

Emma Johnson, daughter of Jonas and Stena Bringekon Johnson, was born in Tidelhome, Sweden. She was sent to this country for the Church at the age of 12 years. She was seven weeks on a sailing vessel, third class. Her entire food supply was in baskets. After landing at Ellis Island, she was sent to Salt Lake City with a tag pinned on her coat for identification.

Emma lived in Salt Lake City some years with her sister, Nettie Soffia. As a young girl and woman she worked as a laundryist at Brigham Young's Lion House. Later she worked with her sister Nettie in the leading restaurant in Salt Lake for three years. She then came to Heber Valley after her parents came from Sweden. She met Robert McKnight there and after a year of courtship they were married.

She lived at the sawmills in the summers with her husband, until they could acquire a home in Heber City. They lived at Daniels Creek, Wasatch County, for three years and then moved back to Heber. Emma was known for her frankness and industry. She was known as a very hard worker and a home lover. Her memories of her life in Sweden were very keen, and her love for that land was with her always.

### ROBERT MONTGOMERY SR.



Robert Montgomery Sr. was born January 7, 1825, in Ireland.

He went to Scotland and married Mary Rogers Loury on March 1, 1846. She died January 10, 1863, in Heber City.

Mary Rogers Loury was born in Scotland on April 25, 1830. Seven children were born to them: Agnes, Sarah, Mary, Robert, Livingston, Elizabeth, Christine. Two children by two later marriages were: Josephine Booth and John L. Horrocks.

Robert Montgomery Sr. was the seventh child of Robert Montgomery and Agnes Shepherd. He was born January 7, 1825, in Churchtown, Ireland. At what age he entered the British army is not known, but at the age of 15 years he left the army and went to Scotland. Records show that at the age of 22, Robert Montgomery married Mary Rogers Loury. Robert was listed as being from Don Donald Parish, Ireland, and Mary gave her home town as Sanquiver Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland. The date was March 1, 1846.

During the winter of 1846, Robert and Mary joined the Mormon Church. Robert was called to preside over the Ayrshire District. To provide for an ever-increasing family, Robert worked in the mines in various capacities. Since this work was proving very

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detrimental to his health, he decided to emigrate to Utah, which he did in 1861.

He crossed the ocean on the ship "Underwriter," with 624 LDS members aboard. Nulo Andrus, Homer Duncan, and C. N. Penrose were in charge of the group. The ship arrived at New York at Castle Gardens on May 22, 1861. June 2, 1861, found him at Florence, Nebraska, and on September 21, 1861, he arrived among friends in Heber City, Utah. There he proceeded to plan for the coming of his family. During the time he was building a home he lived with the following families: Thomas Nicols, James Laird, Thomas Todd, Jesse Bond, David Stevenson and John McKechnie. Robert worked as a pioneer cabinet maker. He made the desk that was used in the old tithing office at Heber City.

Mary Rogers Loury was born at Witlets Toll, Scotland, on April 25, 1830, 19 days after the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mary and her seven children sailed on May 14, 1862, on the "Tapscott" from Liverpool. Francis M. Lyman, John Clark and William Gibson were in charge of the company. They arrived in New York and went by train to the Missouri River, where they joined the Homer Duncan company. This company left Florence, Nebraska, on July 24, 1862, and arrived in Salt Lake City on September 22, 1862.

Robert and his family were reunited only to be permanently separated on January 10, 1863, by the death of Robert. He was at this time, 38 years and 3 days old. Mary, age 32, was left with seven children to face the dreary winter and years ahead. The family of Robert and Mary Montgomery are: Agnes, Sarah, Mary, Robert, Livingston, Christine, Josephine and John L. This was the humble start of the Montgomery family in Wasatch County. Subsequently Mary remarried. Mary Montgomery died July 2, 1904, at the age of 74 years, at Heber City, Utah.

### ROBERT BOOTH MONTGOMERY

My father, Robert Booth Montgomery, was born September 13, 1854, at Cregmark, Ayrshire County, Scotland. He was the son of Robert and Mary Loury Mont-

gomery, the fourth in a family of seven children. As a child of seven he emigrated to America with his mother, sisters and brother. They sailed on a Wednesday, approximately May 14, 1862, from Liverpool, England, on the ship "William Topscott," with 808 saints. They were under the direction of William Gibson. John Clark and Francis M. Lyman. As fellow passengers on board were friends from Scotland, John M. Murdock and family. After six weeks on the water they arrived safely at New York. Then began their long, hard journey across the plains by ox team with the Captain Duncan company. My father walked all the way. They arrived at Kansas City and there awaited the arrival of their husband and father, Robert Sr. He, with his friend, Jimmy Laird, had come to Utah in 1861 and had located at Heber City, Utah. He had built a log house with dirt floors and roof, ready to receive his loved ones. Food had been scarce, the winters severe and cold, and the effects of working many years in the coal mines in Scotland began to tell on him. His health broke, so when the time came for him to meet his family he was too ill to go, so he sent his friend, Jimmy Laird, in his place. One night, while his wife Mary was asleep, she awakened to hear a clear Scotch voice calling, "Is Mary Montgomery aboard?" She was disappointed, but courage was common in that persevering band. They made their way to Utah. Grandfather was overjoyed at seeing his family. Within six months he developed pneumonia and died on January 10, 1863. The snow was about three feet deep when they buried him in Heber Cemetery.

Having been a good carpenter, he owned a very good set of carpenter tools. Grandmother had to sell them for money to live on. She traded a valuable Scotch Paisley shawl for a cow so the children could have milk.

My father was then but eight years old. He was hired out to work for Bishop Hunter. He worked several years, turning the money over to his mother to help with living expenses. When he was 12 years old he and his brother Livingston, age eight, hauled wood from the canyons for fuel. When he was 17 he was a blacksmith in the mines at Alta and Big Cottonwood Canyon. While there a cave-in occurred, and cut his head,

